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COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS ON THE THEME OF THE 1995 COORDINATION SEGMENT OF THE COUNCIL

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1996/L.21

Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227: initiation of reviews

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of May 1991, 46/235 of 13 April 1992, 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996, as well as the Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1995/1 and its decision 1996/203 of 9 February 1996,

Reaffirming the role assigned to the Council in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227,

Conscious of the specific call made by the Assembly for relevant intergovernmental bodies to fully implement the measures contained in its resolution 50/227,

Noting that, according to paragraph 67 of Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council should regularly review the agenda of its general segment,

Noting also that, pursuant to paragraph 70 of Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council is to undertake a review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies,

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Recalling Assembly resolution 50/113, in which it mandated the special session of the Assembly, scheduled in June 1997, to review, inter alia, the future role of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including its relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme,

Noting further that, pursuant to paragraph 71 of resolution 50/227, the Council should consider, as a matter of priority, the role, working methods and relationship with other bodies of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Planning, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, and the Committee on Natural Resources,

Taking into consideration that, in accordance with paragraphs 74 and 75 of resolution 50/227, the Council should provide for the review of the regional commissions with a view to strengthening and enhancing their effectiveness,

Noting that the globalization and interdependence that characterize the world economy have greatly increased the tasks of the regional commissions in their role of assisting their Member States to cope with opportunities, challenges as well as risks,

Noting further that the agreements and commitments adopted at the recent United Nations conferences have further compounded the tasks of the regional commissions in assisting Member States in implementing such agreements and commitments,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts undertaken by a number of regional commissions to initiate a significant reform process, including the setting of priorities based on a dialogue with their intergovernmental bodies;

1. Decides to consider as a matter of priority, at its resumed substantive session to be held before the end of 1996, the possible changes and/or adjustments to its agenda with a view to ensuring that all issues included in General Assembly resolution 50/227 will be examined by the Council;

A. General segment

2. Decides to consider, also as a matter of priority, at the resumed substantive session, a review of the agenda of the Council's general segment in accordance with paragraph 67 of Assembly resolution 50/227;

B. Functional commissions and expert groups and bodies

3. Reaffirms that the review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies should be completed by the fifty-second session of the Assembly;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive document compiling information on the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies and to submit it to the Council not later than February 1997;

5. Decides to begin consideration during its substantive session of 1997 of the role, working methods and relationship with other bodies of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Planning, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development, and the Committee on Natural Resources;

6. Requests the President of the Council to establish arrangements for informal open-ended consultations during the Council's substantive session of 1997 in order to better prepare for further work of the Council on this issue;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its substantive session of 1997 an item entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227";

8. Decides to further consider the review of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies comprehensively during a resumed substantive session in the fall of 1997 and to take decisions at that time;

C. Regional commissions

9. Requests the regional commissions to continue undertaking their own reviews, as called for in Assembly resolution 50/227, and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997;

10. Reaffirms further the need for the above-mentioned reviews and reform processes currently being undertaken by the regional commissions to be carried out, aiming at improving the effectiveness and efficiency of these bodies by eliminating unnecessary duplication or overlapping of work and by ensuring a better structural relationship among these bodies and with the Council;

11. Decides that the Council will take a decision at its substantive session of 1997 on further action on how to achieve the objectives set out in paragraphs 74 and 75 of Assembly resolution 50/227, taking into account the above-mentioned reviews.